

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 INT-05 /089 W

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R 140200Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4894

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 5901

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EINV, MY

SUBJECT: DAVID ROCKEFELLER VISIT TO MALAYSIA

1. CHAIRMAN OF CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, DAVID ROCKEFELLER, PAID PRIVATE 24-HOUR VISIT (OCTOBER 12-13) TO KUALA LUMPUR. WHILE HERE, HE HAD LUNCH WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE SAID, INTER ALIA, THAT IF A FOREIGN COMPANY HAD COME "INTO A COUNTRY ON THE BASIS OF A GIVEN SET OF LAWS AND THOSE LAWS WERE CHANGED UNILATERALLY IT WOULD BE DISCOURAGING TO FOREIGN INVESTORS".

2. ALTHOUGH AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROCKEFELLER DID NOT SPECIFY OIL NEGOTIATION PROBLEMS, AT DINNER NIGHT OF OCTOBER 12 HE WAS VERY SPECIFIC WITH PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN THAT FOREIGN INVESTORS WERE WATCHING TREATMENT OF OIL INDUSTRY AND CURRENT OIL NEGOTIATIONS AS PRIME INDICATOR OF MALAYSIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT. PRIME MINISTER AVOIDED DIRECT REPLY BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE RECEIVED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MESSAGE: FOREIGN INVESTORS DO NOT CONSIDER OIL

"SPECIAL CASE" AND IN VIEW OF AT LEAST ONE AMERICAN
BUSINESSMAN OUTCOME OF OIL NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE MAJOR
FUTURE DETERMINANT OF ATTITUDE OF INVESTORS.

3. DAVID ROCKEFELLER OBVIOUSLY ARRIVED HERE WITH OIL
ON HIS MIND AND ALTHOUGH HE BEHAVED AND SPOKE WITH
EXQUISITE TACT HIS MESSAGE WAS LOUD AND CLEAR. IT
WAS PARTICULARLY VALUABLE FOR PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN
TO HEAR THIS KING OF TALK, NOT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T ALREADY
UNDERSTAND, BUT BECAUSE MANY OF HIS ADVISORS WOULD
LIKE TO PRETEND THAT OIL IS A SPECIAL CASE, AND ITS
TREATMENT WILL NOT HAVE ANY RELEVANCE FOR OTHER INVESTMENT.
PETRONAS CHAIRMAN KADIR AND PETROLEUM ADVISORY COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN RAJAH MOHAR WERE PRESENT AT DINNER AND ALTHOUGH
THEY DID NOT TAKE DIRECT PART IN ROCKEFELLER-PRIME MINISTER
CONVERSATION, THEY STAYED BEHIND AND ALMOST CERTAINLY
WERE BRIEFED BY PM AFTER DEPARTURE OF CHARGE AND ROCKEFELLER
PARTY.
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